(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) The decision of the Government on strategic relocation of the Armed Forces on the Indo-Pak border was taken in the meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security held on 16th October, 2002. After taking into account the improvement in the overall security situation and the security interest of the country, the Government decided on relocation of the armed forces without any compromise to our capacity to respond aggressively and decisively to meet any emergency and without lowering the vigil in Jammu and Kashmir.

Appointment of Generals in Indian Army

776. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Army has requested the Government to appoint 432 Generals; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Purchase of L-159 Aircraft

777. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGI REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is true that Government has decided to purchase L-159 aircraft; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons to select L-159 aircraft over Hawks ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.